

# Basic Satire & Humour Writing For The Internet...

**...& Occasionally Print, Although Print Rarely Because Of The State Of Media: Overview Of Basic Terms & Techniques, But With A Particular Emphasis On Heightening & Escalation & A Sub-Emphasis On Mapping, As It Is Probably Good & Important To Focus On A \*Few\* Things, Since, While I Believe We Can Learn A Lot In An Hour To Hour-And-15-Minutes Or So, You Gotta Focus On Something Or It's Too Much! You Can't Do Everything In One Class; Let's Have Realistic Expectations But Also Don't Take That To Mean Have Low Expectations: Have High Expectations Of What You Can Get From This Class, I Think That It Will Be Useful And Fun And Give You Some Good Walkaway Techniques And, Um... 201**

---

## Relevant Links (with timestamps)

1. 19:51: [N.Y.C. to L.A. to N.Y.C. to L.A., Ad Infinitum | The New Yorker](#)
- 

## Definitions

### Humour vs. Satire

- **Humour** is when someone has a banana, eats it, drops the peel, and someone else slips on it.
- **Satire** is work that uses the tools of humour, such as exaggeration, irony, ridicule, parody..., in order to expose, criticise or ridicule or demonstrate something about something (a person, an idea, a belief system...).

### Target

- The, well, **target** of your jokes or ridicule, etc., in your satire piece.


### Point Of View (POV)

- Whatever you, the author, believe. (Not what your *narrator/characters* believe.)

### Mapping

- Taking the known qualities of a situation, character, dynamic or thing, real or unreal, and putting that into an unexpected and fully separate context. e.g., "What if [literary character x] did [modern activity y]"? - "What if Hemingway wrote Yelp reviews?"

### Escalation / Heightening

- Riane's definition is usually a motion: . Heightening means the 'volume knob' of your piece is starting at, say, 1, and during the course of your piece, you're turning it up to 10. (How fast you 'turn it' can vary too.) Can mean going from: more realistic to less realistic; from general to specific; more and more exaggeration of character traits; etc.
-

## Commentary on Dunlop Piece (19:58)

### How does it heighten?

Re-read looking at how these elements heighten:

1. The means of transportation
  2. Exaggeration
  3. Specificity
  4. Combining jokes
  5. Taking jokes literally
  6. Anything else...?
- 

## Brainstorming Exercise 1 (39:02)

### Prompts

- Something specific that you have a strong positive feeling about
  - Something specific that you have a strong negative feeling about
  - Something you could discuss an excessive amount at a dinner party
  - Look around you and list:
    - 5 things you can see
    - 4 things you can touch
    - 3 things you can hear
    - 2 things you can smell
    - 1 thing you can taste
- 

## Brainstorming Exercise 2 (47:48)

- Pick one of those items and 'word-cloud' around it
- 

## Brainstorming Exercise 3 (52:13)

- Brainstorm 10 topics or premises or titles based off of one of your word cloud ideas
- If you're stuck on this, try to imagine your piece in the format of *monologue* or *list*